GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:981
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2016
Development of Hilly Areas
Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of development of hilly areas in the country is very slow as compared to the urban/plain areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether application of flexible norms in the hilly States could register faster growth in comparison to plain/urban areas;

(d) if so, whether there is a proposal to fix special norms for hilly States in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR MINISTRY OF PLANNING
AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE
RAO INDERJIT SINGH

(a) : No Sir. A statement indicating GDP growth rate (2011-12 base year) of eleven Hill States viz Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura vis-Ã -vis All India for 2012-13, 2013-14 & 2014-15 is at Annexure.

(b) : Does not arise.

(c) to (e) : Recognising the weak revenue base of the Hill States, the Fourteenth Finance Commission has already provided these States additional devolution to compensate for the revenue deficits. Moreover, the Government has taken a number of steps in the past to reduce regional disparities. However, development indicators continue to vary between different States. Hilly areas have their specific challenges including difficult terrain, location on international border etc which constraint development. Norms of many of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes have been designed to address these challenges from time to time. Government has recently accepted the recommendation of the Sub Group of Chief Ministers set up on rationalisation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes to have 90:10 (Centre: State) fund sharing pattern for core schemes for the eleven north eastern and hill states as compared to 60:40 in other States. The Sub-Group of Chief Ministers has also recommended that States may be allowed to decide construction cost norms on the basis of Scheduled of Rates applicable in the State concerned.